

## BOOK REVIEWS

### A New Daylily Book<sup>1</sup>

Dr. A. B. Stout, Director of the Laboratories of The New York Botanical Garden, has devoted many years to the study and hybridization of the daylilies, meaning species and garden varieties of *Heemerocallis*, and his new book "Daylilies" brings together his main results. Although not so stated in the book, it is understood that he has actually grown nearly 20,000 seedlings of hybrid origin. The clones thus produced show great variation in height, time of flowering, and in form, size, and color of their flowers. A notable achievement, from the gardener's point of view, is the production of pink, red, and maroon shades, a definite break from the yellow, orange, or orange-red tones of the old-fashioned daylilies. The earlier chapters of the book discuss the botanical characteristics of the daylilies and the natural species and their distribution. The artificial key to the diagnostic characters of the thirteen recognized species will attract the attention of systematic botanists. It is of interest to note that two daylilies, presumably introduced from central or eastern Asia, had found their way to western Europe by the time the first herbals and gardening books were being printed. These were the fragrant, early-flowering, seed-producing Lemon Daylily, afterwards named *Heemerocallis flava* by Linnaeus, and the summer-flowering Fulvous or Tawny Daylily, *H. fulva* L., the historic botanical type of which appears to have been a self-unfruitful clone, propagated by vegetative division only. The latter was brought to America by the early settlers and has often persisted by old home-sites and along roadsides in the northeastern United States. Chapter VI on "The horticultural clones of daylilies," containing an alphabetical descriptive list of about 175 clonal varieties, is the longest chapter of the book. A discussion of the heights, colors, odor, freedom and time of flowering, and habits of opening, will prove of much practical value to any who are planning to make use of daylilies in their gardening operations. The author advises the selection of at

<sup>1</sup> Stout, A. B. Daylilies: The wild species and garden clones, both old and new, of the genus *Heemerocallis*. Pp. i-x+1-119. *pl. 1-36*. Mr 1934. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price \$3.00.

least twenty-five varieties to show adequately what may be accomplished by the ornamental use of the genus *Hemerocallis*. Their almost complete freedom from disease and from troublesome insect pests is a strong recommendation of the daylilies in these days of continuous horticultural warfare. Chapters on culture, seed reproduction, and breeding, an appendix, with much interesting information as to books, persons, and places, and an index, complete the volume. Of the 36 illustrative plates, several are in colors.

MARSHALL A. HOWE

### Trees of the Southeastern States<sup>1</sup>

Attractively bound in green cloth, this book should prove of real use to those desiring to know the trees of the states from Virginia to Florida. It is written for amateur botanists and nature lovers generally, but is detailed and accurate enough to be of value to the professional botanist. Two hundred and twenty-seven species of trees, native or naturalized, are described. Each species is illustrated with drawings of the leaves and fruit and often of the flowers as well. The key to genera at the beginning is based on both leaf and fruit characters which may at times make it difficult to use in the absence of fruit. Where separation in the key is based on leaf proportions—"blade less than twice as long as broad" or "leaves much longer than broad"—it may be only by the method of trial and error that the sassafras, elms and birches will be found in the latter group. Similarly in the keys to species, given in every case where two or more occur, the separation by leaf size or size of tree may sometimes cause trouble. But as descriptions are ample and the illustrations clear the trouble should not persist. Varieties are discussed under the species, but are not usually included in the keys. Species that seem doubtful are discussed under the forms they most closely resemble:—thus *Padus Cuthbertii*, *neomontana* and *alabamensis* are found under *P. serotina*; *Malus glaucescens*, *bracteata*, *redolens*, *platycarpa*, *elongata* and *cuneata* under *M. coronaria*; *Fraxinus Darlingtonii* under *F. pennsylvanica*; and

<sup>1</sup> Trees of the Southeastern States, William Chambers Coker and Henry Roland Totten. Pp. i-vi+1-400, pl. 1-3. 1934. The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. \$2.00.